

We claim:

1. A headmount apparatus to be worn by a subject and for mounting and supporting vision enhancement equipment, the headmount apparatus comprising:

a mounting shell having at least one pad configured to engage the head of the subject and having at least one mounting surface to which the vision enhancing equipment is mounted, the mounting shell being further configured to be substantially open at the top and rear of the subject's head when worn, at least a portion of the pad adapted to contact the cheek area of the subject when worn; and

at least one elastic strap attached to the mounting shell for securing the mounting shell to the user's head.

2. The headmount apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the mounting shell is at least in part adapted to match the contours of a typical class of user's head so that it rests on and is supported by the portion of the typical class of user's head with which it comes into contact.

3. The headmount apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the mounting shell is comprised of a rigid material that supports the mounted vision enhancing equipment without deforming from the weight of the vision enhancing equipment.

4. The headmount apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the mounting shell is further comprised of a plurality of contact points between the mounting shell and the user's head to further support the mounted vision enhancing equipment so as to prevent the mounting shell from deforming from the weight of the vision enhancing equipment.

5. The headmount apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the plurality of contact points include at least a cheek contact point, a forehead contact point, and a temporal contact point.

6. The headmount apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the at least one pad is positioned at the plurality of contact points and is compliant so as to conform to the user's head.

7. The headmount apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the at least one pad is coated with a moisture wicking covering.

8. The headmount apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the at least one pad is coated with a rot inhibitor.

9. The headmount apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the at least one strap further includes a top strap which sits atop the user's head and at least one side strap positioned on one side of the user's head, whereby the top strap and the at least one side strap meet at the back of the user's head and act in concert with each other so as to allow the adjust of the tension in the top strap and the tension in the at least one side strap.

10. The headmount apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the tension in the top strap is adjusted by looping it through a frontal double-eyelet in the mounting shell, and the tension in the at least one side strap is adjusted by looping it through at least one double-eyelet in the mounting shell.

11. The headmount apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the top strap and the at least one side strap are further comprised of an elastic material which conforms to the user's head.

12. The headmount apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the tension in the top strap and the at least one side strap are adjusted by manipulating a doublet buckle.

13. The headmount apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the top strap, the at least one side strap, and the doublet buckle are thin enough so as to not interfere with other protective headwear.

14. The headmount apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the mounting shell is further comprised of at least one eyewear bridge for accommodating the arms of eyewear.

15. The headmount apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the at least one mounting surface includes a foreheadmount surface, a temporal mounting surface, an eyewear bridge mounting surface, and a cheek mounting surface to which the vision enhancing equipment is mounted.

16. The headmount apparatus according to claims 8, 13 or 15, wherein the mounting shell is a full face mask.

17. The headmount apparatus according to claims 8, 13, or 15, wherein the mounting shell is a half face mask

18. A headmount apparatus for mounting vision enhancement equipment thereon, the headmount apparatus comprising:

at least one mounting frame for attaching vision enhancement equipment; and

a hood configured to fit over a user's head and having at least one opening through which the subject may see, the hood being made at least in part from an elastic material and comprising at least one device mounting surface for accepting the at least one mounting frame and affixing the frame to the hood.

19. The headmount apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the hood is further comprised of at least one contact pad positioned at a corresponding at least one contact point positioned between the hood and the user's head, for supporting at least in part the vision enhancement equipment.

20. The headmount apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the at least one of many contact points include a cheekbone contact point and a forehead contact point.

21. The headmount apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the at least one pad is compliant so as to conform to the user's head.

22. The headmount apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the at least one of many pads are coated with a moisture wicking covering.

23. The headmount apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the pads are coated with a rot inhibitor.

24. The headmount apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the hood is further comprised of an elastic material which conforms to the user's head.

25. The headmount apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the hood is thin enough so as to not interfere with other protective headwear worn on top of the hood.

26. The headmount apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the mounting frame is further comprised of a plurality of mounting tabs which are inserted into a plurality of mounting slots provided in the at least one device mounting surface.

27. The headmount apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the mounting frame is further comprised of a foam backing attached to rear portion of the mounting frame, a lens notch in the forward bottom portion of the mounting frame for mounting lenses, and an insert grove in the forwarded top portion of the mounting frame for mounting vision enhancement equipment.

28. The headmount apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the hood further contains a facial cut out to provide clearance for the eyes and mouth of the user, and contains an aural cut out to provide clearance for the ears of the user.

HOOD CUT OUT